

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in view of the present amendment and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 4-8, 10-13, and 16-20 are pending. In the present amendment, Claim 4 is currently amended and Claims 1-3, 9, 14, and 15 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claim 4 is hereby amended to include the subject matter from Claims 1 and 2. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that no new matter is added.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Hosogaya (Japanese Publication No. 2004-121535); Claims 2 and 3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Hosogaya in view of Rausch et al. (U.S. Patent No. 2,630,516, hereinafter “Rausch”); Claim 9 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Hosogaya in view of Lendlein et al. (U.S. Publication No. 2005/0244353, hereinafter “Lendlein”); Claim 14 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Hosogaya in view of Rausch, and further in view of Lendlein; and Claims 4-8, 10-13, and 16-20 were objected to, but indicated as including allowable subject matter.

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter in Claims 4-8, 10-13, and 16-20. In response, allowable Claim 4 is hereby rewritten in independent form to include the subject matter from Claims 1 and 2. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that Claim 4, and Claims 5-8, 10-13, and 16-20 which are dependent thereon, be allowed.

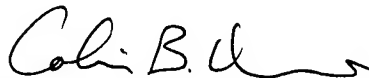
In response to the rejections of Claims 1-3, 9, 14, and 15, it is noted that Claims 1-3, 9, 14, and 15 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that these rejections are moot and should be withdrawn.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. A Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the below listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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